



de maximis, inc.

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August 17, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 159 – July 2020
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On July 9, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the planned Upper 9-Mile Current Conditions Biota sampling activities.
- On July 23, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss Region 2 comments on the revised Draft Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS).

Correspondence

- On July 6, CPG provided schedule information to Region 2 regarding upcoming Current Conditions Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) in-water equipment servicing.
- On July 6, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding Current Conditions Biota sampling activities and scheduled July 9 teleconference call.
- On July 8, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding potential rescheduling of Current Conditions Biota sampling activities.



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- ON July 9, CPG provided presentation materials to Region 2 in support of postponing the Current Conditions Biota sampling activities.
- On July 9, Region 2 approved postponing the 2020 Current Conditions Biota sampling activities until August 2021 due to health and safety concerns with COVID-19.
- On July 10, Region 2 indicated that comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS would be provided to CPG the week of July 13, 2020.
- On July 10, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding format and schedule for CPG to provide data and figures on the contaminants of concern (COC) to Region 2 for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On July 13, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails providing the table and figure for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On July 14, CPG provided revised figures for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS
- On July 15, CPG delivered the June Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On July 16, CPG provided Region 2 a table of COC data for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On July 16, Region 2 provided comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS to CPG.
- On July 17, CPG notified Region 2 that a Current Conditions PWCM equipment servicing was scheduled for the week of July 20, 2020.
- On July 20, Region 2 requested an updated tracking spreadsheet providing details on the Current Conditions PWCM and Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring (SV CWCM) on-water events conducted in 2019 and 2020.
- On July 21, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding clarification and/or need for discussion on comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS and scheduling a teleconference call to discuss the comments.
- On July 22, CPG provided Region 2 an updated tracking spreadsheet for the 2019 and 2020 Current Conditions PWCM and SV CWCM on-water events.
- On July 22, CPG provided Health and Safety Plan (HASP) Amendment #4 for the Current Conditions PCWM on-water servicing event to Region 2.
- On July 22, Region 2 provided CPG a corrected Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS comment file preserving the strikethrough markup.
- On July 27, CPG provided proposed text to Region 2 for Section 7.1.6 of the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS as discussed during the July 23, 2020 teleconference.
- On July 30, Region 2 provided NJDEP comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS to CPG.
- On July 31, CPG provided follow-up responses to select comments on Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.

Work

- CPG continued reviewing and response to Region 2 comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG conducted in-water monitoring equipment servicing events on July 7 – 8 and July 23 – 25 for the PWCM component of Current Conditions Sampling.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.



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- CPG completed validation of 2019 Current Conditions Sampling Biota tissue samples.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- On July 30, CPG uploaded the final Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) of validated data from the September 2019 Current Conditions Biota sampling program event to the EPA SharePoint site.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to comments on the revised the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS delivered to Region 2 on May 15.
- CPG will conduct Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment servicing and SV CWCM sampling events if river conditions and COVID-19 restrictions permit.
- CPG consultants will prepare updates to their HASPs as needed for COVID-19 applicable to Current Conditions Sampling work.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Contractor Corporate and New Jersey work/travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 have and may continue to impact 2020 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

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cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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